

301

Christmas under the palm trees

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Content

The Mittermeier family has only one thing on their minds: getting away from the stress of Christmas and heading for palm trees and the sea. The quarrels begin on the plane. When they arrive on the island of Malitinus, a completely Christmas-free island, they are greeted at the hotel by Akuba Pum, the restless entertainer. He wants to make sure that the family forgets about the 24. of December. But then everyone longs for the traditional celebration.

For ease of reading, we have not differentiated between the sexes.

Characters

Narrator	4 Performances
Mr Mittermeier	15 Performances
Mrs Mittermeier	13 Performances
Anna	14 Performances
Lena	11 Performances
David	11 Performances
Flight Attendant Sunshine	3 Performances
Akuba Pum (speaks in broken German)	12 Performances
Mrs Klein	6 Performances
Gisela Klein	6 Performances

Mrs Mittermeier:

My God, I'm glad I'm 5.000 kilometres away from Christmas, no cookies, no annoying relatives, no festive food – just wonderful! Have you actually seen our children?

Enter the three children, arguing loudly.

Mr Mittermeier: (grumpily)

I haven't *seen* them yet, no, but I can *hear* them!

Anna (to Lena):

Father Christmas wanted to give me the gingerbread in the hall, but you grabbed. Give it to me right now!

Anna goes to take the gingerbread from Lena, but David grabs it.

Anna, Lena:

Mum, Dad, David's taken our gingerbread!

Mrs Mittermeier: (annoyed)

Quiet!

Mrs and Mr Mittermeier:

Children who argue get put into the hold.

The children take their seats. The flight attendant goes through the rows, checking everything is as it should be.

Flight attendant Sunshine:

Is everyone wearing their seatbelts, as instructed? Children, would you like an inflatable Father Christmas or a Christmas game?

Children: (defensive)

No thanks!

Anna:

No Father Christmas!

David:

No boring Christmas poems!

Lena:

We just want to get underway!

Flight Attendant Sunshine:

In five minutes, we'll be taking off for the guaranteed-Christmas-free island of Malitinus.

Everyone leans back and closes their eyes. A plane is heard taking off.

Mr Mittermeier:

Much more pleasant than the Christmas rush, isn't it?

Akuba Pum leaves, the family stands a little to the side, Mrs Klein and daughter Gisela come on stage in bathrobes and sunglasses.

Frau Klein: (rapturously)

Oh Gisela, aren't we lucky? Here we are, enjoying the sun, the sea and the sand, far away from the snow and the slush, the cold and the ice.

Gisela:

Yes, far away from the Christmas stress. Look, Mum, there are new guests with children. Actually it's strange that not even children want to celebrate Christmas anymore. As a little child I always looked forward to it. Somehow it was always very festive.

Mrs Klein:

Now don't get sentimental, Gisela. You wanted to get away from the cookies and the baubles.

Gisela:

I'm just saying, now that I see those children there. But let's leave it, Mister Akuba Pum is sure to have prepared something nice for us. *(shouting loudly)* Mister Akuba Pum! *(The two leave)*

David: (worriedly)

Those two are certainly in a hurry. Looks like things could get a bit weird with this Mister Akuba Pum and I thought only Christmas was stressful.

Mr Mittermeier: (sternly)

Stop grumbling, after all, this holiday cost a packet!

Lena:

Remember, at home it would be Christmas in three days and you would already have had to learn your lines for the Christmas play.

The complete play has 14 pages